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Docket No.: R2180.0178/PI78
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Kazunari Kimino

Application No.: 10/665,481

Confirmation No.: 5528

Filed: September 22, 2003

Art Unit: 2812

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
MANUFACTURING SEMICONDUCTOR
DEVICE INCORPORATING FUSE
ELEMENTS

Examiner: J. M. Kennedy

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed April 28, 2004 (Paper No. 20040426), Applicant hereby elects claims 7-10 being readable thereon, drawn to the method of making a semiconductor device for continued examination, with traverse. The Examiner has required restriction between:

Group I, claims 1-6, 15-20 and 23-28, drawn to an apparatus, classified in class 118, subclass 666+;

Group II, claims 7-10, drawn to the method of making a semiconductor device, classified in class 438, subclass 132+; and

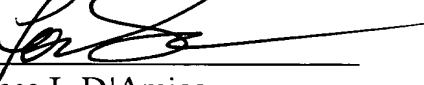
Group III, claims 11-14, 21-22, drawn to a semiconductor device, classified in class 257, subclass 529+.

Applicants respectfully submit that at least claims 1-28 are so closely related to each other, they would not be a serious burden for the Examiner to examine all of those claims at this time. For example, claims 1-6, 15-20 and 23-28 are drawn to a semiconductor manufacturing apparatus, claims 7-10 are drawn to a method corresponding to its use, and claims 11-14, 21 and 22 are drawn to devices manufactured through its use.

M.P.E.P. § 803 directs as follows (emphasis added): “If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.” This directive should be followed by the Examiner in this case at least with respect to claims 1-28.

Dated: May 28, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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